THE HINDOO PATRIOT

With which is incorporated the Indian Field.

PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY

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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 13TH AUGUST.

SHAKESPEARE'S plays are, it is said, to be translated into Chinese for the benefit of the young Princes of China. This important work will be done by the President of the Chinese Academy.

THE Queen-empress is known for her deep attachment to servants. Her Majesty's sergeant footman, who had just died at Windsor, was, it is said, several times visited by her during his illness.

A SHOWER of hats recently occurred in Norfolk county, U. S. Several hundred straw hats fluttered down from the clouds into the streets of Medfield, though not a few stayed their descent on church-steeples and house-roofs. A cyclone that had visited a hat factory some ten miles off was the cause of this singular occurrence. It had carried to the upper regions of the air some hundreds of straw hats, which were drying in bushels on the grounds of the factory, and had blown them along till they were poised exactly over Medfield, when they gently came down.

THE present Emperor of Germany is said to have issued another proclamation to the people of Germany which is indeed very reassuring. It runs as follows:—"Called to the throne of my fathers, I have assumed the Government, looking up to the King of kings, and have vowed to God that, after the example of my fathers, I will be a just and clement prince to my people; that I will foster piety and the fear of God; that I will protect peace, and promote the welfare of the country; and that I will be a helper of the poor and distressed and a true guardian of the right. In praying God for strength to fulfill these kingly duties which His will imposes upon me, I am supported by confidence in the Prussian people which a glance at our past history gives me."

The Bombay Guardian says that a memorial to the Rt. Hon. Lord Reay, Governor of Bombay in Council, is in course of signature by Sunday School teachers in the Presidency, urging the fact that the general and unchecked use of obscene language is most fatally demoralising to the people at large, and especially to the children and youth of India. The memorial quotes the law of India with regard to the suppression of obscenity in the public streets, but pleads that its action is too limited. It concludes as follows:—"Your Excellency's Government has recently expressed the urgent need of a reform in morals by issuing a resolution upon moral teaching in public schools. This important action has been universally welcomed and is a strong assurance that repressive measures will be taken against the general use of obscene language, which is one of the chief means of spreading immorality among the young. With these representations, your memorialists respectfully and earnestly plead that your Excellency will be pleased to give your kind consideration to this question and graciously grant your strong influence for so amending and perfecting the law as may make it available for the protection of respectable people from the scourge of obscenity which is now demoralizing the land." We do not know what the "Sunday School" teachers are aiming at. Are the mouths of the people to be gagged, for making use of language which appears to these Sunday-School purists to be "obscene"?

THE term of two years for which the Government of India lent the services of Lala Baijnath to the Maharaja Holkar expires in October next, when the Chief Justice's post will fall vacant should the present incumbent feel disinclined to accept His Highness's offer of an extension of the term to a further period of six months in appreciation of the Lalajee's valuable services. Lala Baijnath expects to get a better appointment in the North-Western Provinces, and it is, therefore, doubtful if he will overstay his term. Justice Dhurandhar is spoken of as his successor.

IT is stated that Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji has been definitely chosen as the Liberal candidate for Finsbury, which seat was won at the last election by a Conservative by five votes.

TUESDAY, 14TH AUGUST.

THE *Star*, the new London Radical paper, alleges that eight of the lyrics interspersed in Sir Edwin Arnold's "In an Indian Temple" are taken without acknowledgment from Professor Peterson's English preface to an edition of "Vallabhadeva's Subhashitavali," published in 1886. The *Star* awaits Sir Edwin's answer to the charge. Dr. Peterson is a Professor of the Bombay University.

MR. T. C. LEWIS, M. A., Principal of the Government College, Lahore, has been appointed to officiate as Director of Public Instruction, Punjab. Speaking of this appointment the *Morning Post* of Allahabad writes:—"Selected by the Secretary of State to fill the chair of Professor of Mathematics of the Government College, Lahore, he (Mr. Lewis) arrived in India in October, 1881, starting with a salary of Rs. 500 a month, and now, barely eight years after, he fills the highest office of the department, which carries a salary of Rs 1,500 to Rs. 2,000. Mr. Lewis's seniors—Mr. J. Sime, B. A, and Mr. C. R. Stulpnagel—are for the present out of the running, hence Mr. Lewis's luck. The former, as tutor to His Highness the young Maharaja of Patiala, is in too comfortable a position to exchange for the temporary honour of ruling the department; and the latter is away on eighteen months' furlough. But, there is no disguising the fact, that the appointment will not prove a popular one, and that Mr. Lewis will find his position in the Senate more difficult and delicate than it has proved even while he was still a junior. Several of his cherished schemes have hitherto met with scant consideration at the hands of watchful and jealous Fellows."

A CRICKET match, was played at Blackheath in the year 1766 between eleven Greenwich pensioners who had each lost an arm and eleven others who had each lost a leg. The one-armed cricketers were on this occasion victorious, beating the one-legged men easily; a different result, however, attended a match played under the same conditions thirty years later. On the 9th of August, 1796, eleven Greenwich pensioners, with one leg each played a match against eleven with one arm each for the sum of 1,000 guineas at the new cricket-ground, Montpellier Gardens, Walworth, in the presence of a large concourse of deeply interested spectators. The one-legged men had the first innings, and got 93 runs; while those with one arm only succeeded in scoring 42 runs during their innings. In the second innings six of the one-legged were bowled out after they had got 60 runs, when the game closed for the day. It was resumed the next morning, and ultimately the men of one leg beat those of one arm by 103 runs. After the match was played out the eleven one legged pensioners delighted all present by an exhibition of their agility. They ran a sweepstakes of 100 yards' distance for 20 guineas—the prizes being allotted to the three who arrived first at the winning-post.

THE *Civil and Military Gazette* understands that the Government of India has determined to recommend to the Secretary of State the transfer of Sind from the control of the Bombay Government to that of the Government of the Punjab.

IT is understood that one of the last public acts of Lady Dufferin in this country will be to lay the foundation-stone of a new Zenana Hospital at Calcutta, when she arrives here in December next.

MAJOR ROWAN HAMILTON does not join Lord Lansdowne's Staff, as was lately arranged, but goes home preliminary to retirement from the service. His place on the new Viceroy's Staff will probably be taken by Captain C. Burn, Lord Dufferin's A. D. C.

A RAILWAY through Central Asia to Pekin is the latest Russian project. It will probably be a long time before the terminus at Pekin is reached; but a railway through the whole length of Siberia, with its eastern terminus in the Primorsk or coast province on the Pacific, is a plan which will be certainly carried into effect within the next few years. This will enable Russia to do easily what she could now only attempt with great loss of time and treasure—namely, to move an effective force to the northern frontiers of China. Once this line is made, a branch to Pekin will be no very difficult matter.

WEDNESDAY, 15TH AUGUST.

IN Melbourne they have a satisfactory way of dealing with sellers of impure milk. Even to keep milk for sale in any place, where it is likely to be contaminated by the impurities of the atmosphere, is an offence against the Public Health Act, and a milk-seller was lately fined £2 for this offence.

ONE incident of the Lieutenant-Governor's recent visit to Midnapore may be mentioned as of an exceptional nature. It is said that a party of native women attempted to approach His Honor in his walk. They were prevented by the Police, but Sir Steuart told his men not to interfere. The poor women approached and handed a petition. His Honor received it, saying he would look into it. They are Hindu *gwalins*—milk-women.

THE Niagara is to be compelled to work out dividends for a syndicate of money-makers. The idea is to construct a tunnel from the water level below the Falls, about 200 feet under the high bank of the river, extending through the rock of the Upper Niagara River, at a point one mile above the falls, where a head of 120 feet is obtained. The tunnel is then to extend, parallel with the shore of the river, one and a half miles, at an average depth of 100 feet, below the surface of the earth, and at a distance of about 400 feet from the navigable water of the river with which it is to be connected by means of conduits or lateral tunnels. The power is to be obtained from the conduits leading to the main tunnel, and not from the tunnel itself or from the falls. Along the line of the tunnel 238 mills, of 500 horse-power each, can be established. The estimated cost of construction of the tunnel is £6,00,000.

THE following Benches are to be formed for the conduct of business in the High Court. The Hon. Justices O'Kinealy and Rampini are sitting, and will continue to sit and dispose of the criminal appellate business of the whole court and of the civil business of the Burdwan and Patna groups. At the close of the Original Side appeals, now being heard by the Chief Judges, a Full Bench, consisting of the Chief Justice and Justices Wilson, Tottenham, O'Kinealy, and Macpherson, will be formed to dispose of all the Full Bench references now ready. When those are over Justices Macpherson and O'Kinealy will take up the business of the Patna group.

THE *Bombay Educational Record* reports another examination fraud. One Ganesh Gowlat Talati impersonated an individual named Ganesh Khanderao Gadkarne, and passed, and then handed his certificate to the latter, who obtained an appointment on the strength thereof. The suspicions of the Educational authorities being aroused, inquiries led to the accusation of these men, who have been sentenced to two months' imprisonment each.

A PORTION of the Tumlook District Board Road, forming the right bank of the Rupnarayan, is being washed away by the river. In the immediate neighbourhood are the Sub-Divisional Office, the Munsiffs' Courts, the Jail, the Sub-Deputy Collector's and the Honorary Magistrate's Courts, the thana, and the Police Inspector's office and quarters, which are all liable to be destroyed by a flood. Last year the District Board expended about Rs. 2,000 on the erection of spurs, which served their purpose well, but no provision has been made for their maintenance, and it is feared that both the road and the town will be swallowed up at no distant date. The inhabitants of Tumlook have, therefore, petitioned the Lieutenant-Governor to take steps for the protection of the embankment, and the local Mnnicipality offers to contribute according to its means.

SIR ARCHIBALD ALISON replaces Sir William Foster in the Indian Council.

MAHMOUD PASHA, the Turkish Minister of Finance, has been dismissed.

THE House of Lords has passed the Special Commission Bill, the Imperial Defence Bill and the Local Government Bill. Parliament adjourned on Monday until the 6th of November.

RUSSIA maintains her demand for the departure of Prince Ferdinand from Bulgaria, and also main-

tains the exclusion of Prince Alexander in connexion with the settlement of the question. After the normal situation is restored, Russia will send a Commissioner who will restore diplomatic relations between Bulgaria and Russia, and she will then accept any legally elected Prince belonging to the orthodox Church.

THURSDAY, 16TH AUGUST.

A GREAT scare was caused in Pegu last Wednesday, owing to information brought in by a priest to the police, that a gang of dakaits intended attacking the town at midnight and decapitating all the Europeans. Precautionary measures were immediately adopted, and the town patrolled by the Volunteers and police, but the dakaits failed to put in an appearance. The origin of the scare was that a band of dakaits attempted to cross from Tharrawaddy to the Pegu district, but got demoralized somehow before they managed to carry out their object. In consequence of this pilot engines preceded the night trains to Pegu for two or three nights.

THE charges against Hunmantrao are under section 163 of the Indian Penal Code: firstly for receiving, in January 1887, Rs. 2,000 from Vishnu Babaji Wadirkar, for the purpose of inducing Mr. Crawford to promote him; secondly, for receiving in July 1887, Rs. 3,000 from Bulwant Naryen Dabar, for the purpose of inducing Mr. Crawford to give him promotion; thirdly, for receiving Rs. 2,000 in June 1888 from Balkrishna Govind Sindekar, for the purpose of inducing Mr. Crawford to promote him. Mr. Branson has been engaged to defend Hunmantrao.

A TELEGRAM states that the epidemic of cholera is abating at Murree.

HEAVY floods have breached the Bolan Railway in no less than seven places.

IF an expedition is sent against the Black Mountain tribes, it will consist, it is said, of some seven thousand men, including a force to be held in reserve.

THE Viceroy's tour in the autumn will probably be confined, it is said, to the line of railway between Umballa and Calcutta, with possibly an excursion on the river Ganges for part of the journey down, but no details have yet been settled. His Excellency is likely to make over charge of his office to Lord Lansdowne on the 10th of December, and will leave Calcutta the same day direct for Bombay.

EVERYTHING is arranged for the visit of the Czar to Central Asia, which will take place in October. His Majesty will travel through the Caucasus.

IT is rumoured at Simla that, for the sake of economy, several Government of India Offices will remain at Calcutta next year. The Post Office is mentioned as one of those most likely to be left down.

A WOLVERHAMPTON correspondent says that during a heavy thunderstorm on July 17 a collier, named Bates, who had lost his sight through an accident, was being led home, when a flash of lightening was reflected on the spectacles he was wearing to conceal his disfigurement. After the peal of thunder which followed he complained of pain in his head. The next moment, to his surprise, he found that he had regained possession of his eyesight. Why not then try electric flash as an opthalmic restorative?

A ROMAN Catholic church is being built at Simla, which is to cost Rs. 70,000, without interior fittings or furniture. Of this amount, Rs. 40,000 have been collected.

THAT the people in the Mofussil might not be cheated in purchasing salt by the *moodies* misrepresenting the actual amount of duty on it lately increased by Government, Mr. Toynbee, the Collector of Hughly, has circulated in the districts a short notification in large Bengalee type that "the duty has been increased from Rs. 2 to Rs. 2-8 per every maund of salt."

HIS Excellency the Commander-in-Chief makes a short tour in Kumaon and Rohilkand at the close of this month. He visits Naini Tal on the 1st of September, and afterwards Almora, Ranikhet, Bareilly, and the new station of Kaludanda, returning to Simla by the 15th of September.

THE Bengal Government intend carrying out a reconnaissance, next cold season, of the country between Gya and Ranaghat with a view to the extension of their provincial railway system. It is 250 miles from point to point, as the crow flies; but the line of reconnaissance would be much longer, proceeding from Ranaghat through Santipur to Cutwa, and thence to Madhupur or Baidyanath junction. From this last point a careful examination of the country westwards to Gya would have to be made, as the routes along it are not yet known to our railway engineers.

FRIDAY, 17TH AUGUST.

As General Boulanger was touring in Charente, an Opportunist fired five shots at him with a revolver. The shots were not intended for him. They were accidental, and occurred during an affray. General Boulanger was unhurt.

NEWS has been received from Gnatong that the representative of the Chinese Ampa, who arrived at Lhassa on 13th July, is expected at Rinchingong on the 15th of this month. The present Ampa is said to be of superior position to any previously sent from China. The former ambassador was recalled owing to his not having reported that the dispute between the British and Tibetans had reached such a serious pitch. Colonel Graham, on Wednesday morning last, visited the Nimla Ridge, and obtained excellent views of the Jalep and Pemberingo Passes. About 50 men were seen in the Kapup Valley. The position of the Tibetans showed no alteration.

THE Government of India has at last taken steps to remedy the very real grievances of the Telegraph Department. The special retirement rules for the department issued last October produced some anomalies. Consequently the following supplementary rules have now been published: 'Any officer, who had less than 20 years' service counting for pension on the 31st March 1888, will be eligible to retire from the Department when he attains to 20 years pensionable service, with the pension due to him under the rules in force (on medical certificate or otherwise), together with an extra pension of Rs. 1,000 per annum. Applications to retire must be made, in the case of those already eligible, within six months of the date of the Resolution; and in case of others subsequently eligible, within six months after attaining 20 years pensionable service. The Resolution is only intended to have temporary effect, and may be revoked by the Governor General whenever, after 1st February 1889, it appears desirable to do so. No officer entitled to retire under the Resolution will be allowed, after its issue, to take any furlough (other than on medical certificate) which will cause the total amount of furlough taken during his service to exceed two years, unless before doing so he foregoes the right of applying to retire under these special terms. These rules, if not previously cancelled, will cease to be operative as soon as the whole of the officers appointed in 1871-72 have become eligible to retire under them.'

AN Association is being organized in England by Mr. Caine, Mr. Samuel Smith and other Members of Parliament, with the object of influencing and informing public opinion in England upon the working of the liquor laws in India, and of setting on foot agencies in the chief Indian cities for disseminating temperance principles and checking the facilities for the sale of intoxicating liquor in this country. The Associations in India will be unsectarian and open to all communities.

WE are glad to learn that Mr. Preonath Sen is one of the successful candidates passed at the recent final examination of the Indian Engineering College at Cooper's Hill. Mr. Sen stands twelfth on the appointment list. He is the eldest son of Mr. Rajkrishna Sen, the late fourth Judge of the Calcutta Small Cause Court.

IN giving an account of the recent accident to the up Darjeeling mail train on the Northern Bengal State Railway, the *Darjeeling News* says: "The Railway authorities rendered no help to the unfortunate passengers in carrying their things from one train to the other. No coolies could be got, neither were any arrangements made by the Railway officials in removing their luggage. Only one coolie was to be had, and he charged six annas for each trip; and those who could not pay so much had to carry their own loads. In the E I.R. when such accidents happen, the Railway officials are ever prompt to render all possible assistance to the passengers, and to look after and pay for the carrying of passengers' things; but nothing of the sort was to be seen here. Three of the 3rd class passengers were badly injured, but there were no further accidents. The accident was alleged by the Railway officials to be due to the fault of the pointsman, but it could never be so, inasmuch as the engine had passed the points safe and sound, and it was afterwards that the engine broke off from the train. The probabilities are that the accident was mainly due to over-speed, for which the driver alone is to the blame. However, the matter should be thoroughly enquired into by Mr. Finney, the deputy manager, who with the locomotive and the traffic superintendents left Sealdah by next day's mail to hold the necessary investigation."

THE sandal wood of the Mysore Province is, it appears, not only used for ornamental carved work, but the medical profession is also much benefited by it. French chemists use it for the manufacture of the preparation called Sandal-Middy. It is a pure oil distilled from Mysore sandal wood, by Middy's process, and is dispensed in small spherical capsules, containing five drops each. In diseases of the urinary organs it is said to have a very prompt and marked effect; also in chronic catarrh of the bladder it acts with excellent results much more promptly, in fact, than with the impure oil of commerce. Dr. Posener of Germany recommends it very highly in the German medical journals.

SATURDAY, 18TH AUGUST.

THE Lahore Paper says:—"The very large find near Patiala of treasure-trove, which for its vastness had to be dragged away in bullock-carts to the Patiala treasury in a manner which is mythological and would become a fairy tale (but for the bullock-carts) throws a person sorrowing over the deficit in the British exchequer into greater despondency. The find is said to be worth crores, that is, of just the amount to re-establish the finances and obviate further talk about the income and salt taxes. The right of the beggar boy who comes up and claims something to which he has no right from a smaller one by virtue of superior strength and on arguments above the logic of mere mortals is comfortable doctrine. The elder obtains what he wants through his merit of bigness, and the smaller is not put to the invidiousness of taking large things to himself. This is a thing settled by destiny. But the Government of India does not wish to be the big boy, though its grounds would, as it would seem, not be so very unreasonable and high-handed, for the trove was located in a spot which was neither here nor there. This might be ascertained, but if the spot is clearly within Patiala territory, nothing more need be said, except, of course, that the locality is a matter for regret, and that it should have been otherwise."

SIR ARTHUR HAVELOCK has applied to the Transvaal Government for the extradition of Dinizulu and Undabuku on the charge of murder. The Transvaal authorities replied that steps were being taken to disarm and arrest them.

THE Amir of Kabul is laid up with a severe attack of gout, and is unable to transact business.

IT is stated that Lord Lansdowne's Private Secretary may either be Mr. Nevill Lyttleton or Mr. Alfred Milner, Private Secretary to Mr. Goschen.

CERTAIN persons of doubtful character and nationality, representing themselves as relatives of certain well-known Turkish Pashas, and some of them dressed in the uniform of the body-guard of his Imperial Majesty the Sultan, and calling themselves "Rumi Sahibs," are in the practice of going to Rajas and Nawabs in order to get pecuniary assistance from them. At the request of the Turkish Government, the Government of India has published the fact that there are no such Turkish Pashas or their relatives at present in India, and that there is no likelihood that such persons would come to India for the purpose of begging.

THE fee of Rs. 250, hitherto fixed under the provisions of Act XXX. of 1852 for the grant of a certificate of naturalization to aliens as British subjects, has been reduced to Rs. 75.

THE INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

(210, BOW-BAZAR STREET).

(SESSION 1888-9.)

LECTURE by Babu Asutosh Mukerjee, M. A. F. R. A. S., F. R. S. E. on *Tuesday*, the 21*st Inst.*, at 4 P. M

Subject: Theory of Analytic Functions. Geometric Illustrations of Infinitesimals.

LECTURE by Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, on *Tuesday*, the 21*st Inst.*, at 7½ P. M.

Subject: Expansion by Heat.

LECTURE by the Rev. Father de Penaranda, S. J., on *Wednesday*, the *22nd Inst.* at 7½ P. M.

Subject: The Earth, and its Satellite.

LECTURE by the Rev. Father Lafont, S. J., C. I. E., on *Thursday*, the *23rd Inst.* at 7½ P. M.

Subject: Lenses.

LECTURE by Babu Mahendra Nath Ray, M. A., on *Friday* the *24th Inst.* at 4½ P. M.

Subject: First Law of Motion.

LECTURE by Babu Pramatha Nath Bose, B. Sc., F. G. S., on *Friday*, the *24th Inst.* at 7½ P. M.

Subject: Metamorphic Rocks.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M. D.,
August 18th, 1888. *Honorary Secretary.*

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The Hindoo Patriot

MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 1888.

THE VICEROY-ELECT.

THE last mail has brought to us full details of the meeting held at Lord Northbrook's house in London, for the purpose of introducing Indian gentlemen to the Marquis of Lansdowne. It was a distinguished meeting at which were present the present Secretary of State for India with two other ex-Secretaries of State, one Commander-in-Chief, some members of the India Office, two ex-Lieutenant-Governors of Bengal, one Governor of Bombay, and two ministers of the Hyderabad Court,—new India being represented by Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji, Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee and others. The amiable and tasteful host gave to the meeting an oriental appearance by furnishing the tent, at which the reception was held, with oriental hangings and accompaniments, while the picturesque dresses of the Hyderabad ministers and others must have lent fascination to the same. The two principal actors were Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji, the President of the National Congress held in Calcutta in 1886, and the Viceroy-designate. The Parsi gentleman, who has spent the best years of his life in taking thought about, and adopting measures for, the political and economic welfare of the people of India, presented the noble Marquis, in the name of the people of India, with an address of welcome and congratulation, in which he dwelt on the state of the India of to-day with that of the India of the East India Company, and expressed the hope that the noble Marquis on assuming the Vice-regal sceptre would act in accordance with the spirit of the age. His Lordship's reply was all that could be desired; and although much should not be built on the first utterances of a newly elected ruler on a complimentary occasion, we are not a little gratified at the admissions made and the hints thrown out. As it was an occasion of mere congratulations and compliments, it would be unreasonable to expect the utterances to bear any political significance,—indeed, both Mr. Dadabhai and the noble lord deprecated attaching to the occasion any political importance; still there is much in the reply of the noble Marquis to awaken interest and arrest attention. In our opinion it is a matter of no little importance that the Marquis of Lansdowne admitted that the India of to-day is quite different from the India of 1833. Most Anglo-Indians do not admit this fact. They are of the opinion that India is immutable, that she is now in the year of grace 1888 what she was in the days of Alexander the Great, or at any rate what she was in the days of the East India Company; and they infer from this supposed immobility of India that the same policy which was pursued in the days of Warren Hastings should be followed at the present day. Not long ago a Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal publicly declared that the people of India preferred the *Ma bap* theory of Government to any other theory. This was an untrue statement, a misreading of the signs of the times. And this mistake is shared in by the great majority of Anglo-Indians. Heedless of the changes which are taking place before their very eyes, and unmindful of the leaven which is fermenting the whole of Indian society, they think that the India of 1888 is the same India on which they first put foot when they were young. No blunder could be more eggregious. And we suffer from the prevalence of this blunder, as we are treated as if we were still in our leading-strings. It is only a few Anglo Indians, like Sir William Hunter and Mr. H. J. S. Cotton, who have fully appreciated the changes that have come over us. It is, therefore, a matter of no little satisfaction to us that the coming Viceroy fully appreciates the change which India has undergone since it passed from the hands of the East India Company to those of the Queen Empress. His Lordship referred to the great material and moral progress India has made during the last quarter of a century, to the developments of new industries, and, above all, to the spread of education—all which clearly shows that the India of the Queen is different from the India of the East India Company. From this great change which has come over India his Lordship drew the logical conclusion that "the supremacy of the British Crown has come to rest more and more upon the sympathy and good will of the people who are committed to its charge, and less and less upon the mere exhibition of physical force." This admission so emphatically and frankly made augurs well of his Lordship's administration, since his Lordship wishes to base the stability of British rule in India not upon strong battalions but upon the more solid and permanent foundations of the "sympathy and good will of the people." These latter are better and more stable foundations than the munitions of the Khyber Pass and of the Bolan Pass, or the batteries near the Sandheads. With a people full of sympathy with their rulers, and bearing good will towards them, with a people contented and loyal, England may well laugh at the machinations of her enemies. Another thing which has given us much satisfaction is his Lordship's appreciation of the civilization and intellectual character of the people of India. His Lordship characterized them as "a people whose history shows them to be exceptionally capable of intellectual achievements, and of the highest form of literary and artistic culture." Let our readers contrast this language of high appreciation with the language of vile vituperation made use of daily by Anglo-Indian journalists. We cannot but look upon this as an augury of good to come. A ruler who feels respect for those whom he comes to rule, cannot but be a good ruler. Regarding them as capable of the highest intellectual achievements and as equal in that respect to his own countrymen, he will always treat them with respect and deference, and will do nothing to hurt their feelings or wound their susceptibilities. Respecting their intelligence such a ruler will naturally treat them as civilized beings, and give to them, so far as lies in his power, the rights and privileges of civilized beings. He will naturally deem them worthy of representative institutions and those advanced political usages which it is the prerogative of civilized beings only to enjoy. As he has such a high idea of their intellectual character, he will not deem them unworthy to sit beside him and take part in the discharge of legislative and executive functions. Our Anglo-Indian friends are constantly telling us that the scheme of Self-Government is a failure; such a statement will not be credited by a statesman who holds the opinion that the people of India are exceptionally intellectual and capable of the highest literary and artistic culture. We may be told that we have literary and artistic culture, but no political culture. This is partly true; for centuries of foreign domination have thrashed out political life from us; but then we have intellect which is the guiding spirit of all progress, and which can be as readily applied to politics as to art and literature. So long as we have the key which unlocks the treaures of wisdom, we do not fear that under the benign rule of the British Government we shall make as good progress in the domain of politics as we have heretofore done in the domains of literature and art. The last statement in the speech of the Marquis of Lansdowne which has given us great satisfaction is that in which he says that he will keep pace with the spirit of the age. But as this is a statement on which we recently dwelt at large, we do not purpose here to repeat what we have already said. We shall here merely reproduce his Lordship's words which are words of wisdom and of hope:—"But I will say this much in reference to which has fallen from you in the address, I entirely concur with you in the opinion you desire to convey to me, that it is the duty of the Government of India to keep pace with the age in which we live, that in India, as in this country, men and things do not stand still, and that in the great empire of the Queen there are boundless opportunities of salutary reforms, and those who neglect the opportunities afforded to them for effecting improvements of that kind fail in the highest duties of statesmanship."

PURDAH IN COURT.

The decision of the High Court in the case of Srimati Dintarini Devi, of Gobordanga, has given public satisfaction and a fresh proof, if need were of any, of the constant anxiety of that Court for protecting the liberties of the people and respecting their time-honored usages and institutions. In certain proceedings instituted by the Crown against Woomesh Chunder Mitter and others,—for trying to cheat the Paper Currency Office by obtaining payment on the halves of two twenty rupee notes, the other halves of which were alleged to have been in their possession and lost only a year ago, but upon which, as a matter of fact, the Paper Currency Office had made payments under similar circumstances some sixteen or seventeen years back, —it was urged by the defence that Srimati Dintarini Devi had inherited the half-notes in question from her late husband Babu Janakinath Chaterji and entrusted the accused with them for the purpose of cashing them. Srimati Dintarini Devi was by Mr. Marsden, before whom the case came on for enquiry, deemed to be a very material witness in the case, and her testimony it was thought would be of the greatest value and importance to the accused. Summons were accordingly issued for securing her attendance in Court, and it was threatened in the usual stereo-typed way that if she did not voluntarily attend a warrant would be issued for enforcing it. The timid Bramhin widow, occupying a prominent rank in her society and afraid of humiliation in the eyes of her people by appearance in a public Court of law in contravention to the established customs and usages of the country, naturally grew alarmed by the threat, and through Babu Surendra Nath Das, her Attorney, moved the Presidency Magistrate, for issue of a Commission for her examination at her residence at Gobordanga, which application was rejected by the Magistrate under the circumstances noticed by us in our last issue. In vain did she urge that she was connected with the well-known Zemindars of Gobordanga and was herself living on an independent income of 5,000 Rs. a year, that she was a Hindoo *Purdanashin* lady of rank and position who had never appeared in a Court of law and who could not do so according to the usages of the country, and that if she was compelled to do so she would for ever lose her dignity and position in society. Dintarini Devi had, therefore, no other alternative than of appealing to the Hon'ble High Court, and it was urged on her behalf that by the literal enforcement of the Presidency Magistrate's order, she would "suffer degradation in the eyes of her own associates" inasmuch as "the society to which she belongs was such as nothing she might hereafter do would ever remove or modify the odium incurred."

The High Court heard her prayer and Justices Wilson and Rampini issued a Rule in which their Lordships were good enough to observe as follows:—"In this case as far as we can judge it does seem to be a hardship that this lady should be required to give evidence in Court. The better course would be to issue a rule upon the Magistrate to show cause, which he will do by a letter to us, why it should not order that the lady should not be required to appear in Court. We intimate to the Magistrate that we think that he should not enforce her attendance under the subpœna, provided she does what she says she is willing to do, that is to come to Calcutta and give her evidence in such suitable place either within the Court building *or not*, under such circumstances to be arranged by the Magistrate as to secure that she may be examined in the presence of the accused and at the same time not to be exposed to the inconvenience of coming into the public Court room. We would ask the Magistrate to let us know what arrangement he proposes to make in the matter and if, as we have no doubt will be the case, these arrangements seem to us suitable, no further order will be necessary."

The High Court, it will thus be seen, was quite willing to fall in with the views of the Magistrate, so far as it consistently could do. But the Magistrate took his stand on "law and principle" and would not flinch. In the explanatory letter addressed to the High Court he tenaciously held that in such cases the *invariable* practice was for the *purdanashin* ladies to come to Court in

palkis. The affidavits of experienced and long-standing pleaders of the Police Court as well as the testimony of Mr. Riely, who appeared for Srimati Dintarini Devi and who had long officiated as Presidency Magistrate, showed, however, that whenever occasion arose a commission had been issued. But the Magistrate went further and held:

"The Code of Criminal Procedure does not appear to provide for or contemplate a Magistrate being called upon or required to take the evidence of a witness under commission or otherwise than in his Court (*vide* Section 503 and 504) and I would suggest that it would be most inconvenient were he to do so. Further it will be seen that were it held that a *purdanashin* woman is to be examined in a Criminal Court in a place other than the Court it would be the cause of loss of time and of very serious inconvenience, and I have no hesitation in saying that such applications would be of very frequent occurrence. Further, if one *purdanashin* woman is entitled to be examined at her own residence, and I apprehend that the only possible ground for her claiming such a privilege must be that she is a *purdanashin*, every woman who could show that she habitually remained behind the *purdah* would be equally so entitled." And what if they should when they are justly entitled to the privilege?

The rule came on for hearing on Wednesday last, when the learned Advocate-General appeared to show cause against the rule and characterised the objection of the lady to appear in Court as purely sentimental. He "challenged" on behalf of the Crown the "absurd" idea about "degradation of appearing in a public Court" and thought it was a scandal to the administration of justice if such principles were sanctioned or tolerated. We are sure the Gracious Lady that now wears the Crown of India, and may she be spared to wear it long, would be the last to endorse such views or to insist that the honored usages of her fellow-women in India should be rudely disturbed by her zealous and reform-loving law-officers. As for the learned Advocate-General's attempted facetiousness about women sitting behind the *Purdah* along the Chitpore Road, which was most unwarrantably and unnecessarily introduced in the course of his argument, the less said the better. Mr. Reily who appeared in support of the rule very properly pointed out that the legislature *did* recognise that attendance in law courts was regarded as a degradation in this country and one of the modes of showing Government favour to exalted personages was to grant them immunity from attendance in Civil Courts, and he urged that "sentiment" on delicate questions like this could not be ignored in India. Justices O'Kinealy and Rampini, who heard the rule, were of the same opinion and made it absolute. The judgment observed:—

"The Crown objects because the lady in her petition had said it was a degradation for her to appear in a public Court, and the learned Advocate-General argued that it would be intolerable to allow such a principle to receive the sanction of this Court. No doubt, the phrase is objectionable, and it would be impossible, as the learned Advocate-General says, to admit the fact that merely appearing in Court is a degradation, Yet we do not think that that supports the case. There is no doubt that such applications have been granted, and that questions of the customs and habits of the people should be taken into consideration in dealing with matters of procedure. The learned Presidency Magistrate has shown cause by saying that it is the invariable custom with *purdanashin* ladies to be examined in *palkis* in Court. But that is not the question. The question was whether a Commission was ever issued in regard to them, and of that there is no mention here. He also says that this lady travels from Gobordanga to Calcutta, but he does not say that she does it publicly. So far, therefore, as cause has been shown by the Magistrate, it does not affect the reasons on which such Commissions have ever been granted. Now, looking at the nature of this application, that the lady has actually taken a house in Calcutta adjacent to the Magistrate's Court, that no possible inconvenience can arise to any person, and that she has volunteered to pay all the expenses of the Commission, we can see no possible reason why this rule should not be enforced, and we make it absolute."

We trust this wholesome ruling will be always borne in mind by our zealous magistrates, and that needless harassment of this description to Hindu and Mahammadan ladies of rank will be heard of no more. Once more we repeat, we are very much thankful to the High Court for supporting the cherished institutions of the country. The High Court had to deal with a particular case and has remedied the evil. But a change in the law seems to be absolutely necessary, and we hope the attention of the Government will be drawn to the question. The Civil Procedure Code sanctions that such Commissions should be issued as a rule, whenever the parties are prepared to meet the requisite costs, and there is no reason why the Criminal Code should leave it entirely to the discretion of the judge or magistrate. The Civil and Criminal Courts are both Courts of law, and it is inexplicable that the usages and customs of the country should be honored in one Court and disregarded in another, unless the parties concerned are rich and persistent enough to appeal to the High Court and enforce immunity at the point of bayonet. Any amendment of the Evidence Act and the Criminal Procedure Code that may be necessary to bring the Civil and Criminal Courts to a level in this respect should be made. We can well understand the indignant remarks of some of our Anglo-Indian contemporaries about the decision of the High Court, and we can never expect that Anglo-Indians should enter into our feelings in this regard. But from the Government and the Legislature we have a right to expect that our feeling should be respected, and we have no doubt that the appeal which may be made to Government in this connection will receive due consideration.

THE PURCHASE OF GOVERNMENT STORES.

WE are told that the attention of the Committee which Lord Cross has resolved to appoint to enquire into the Home Charges of the Government of India, will be devoted mainly to the Store Department of the India Office. If the Committee does its work thoroughly even in connection with the purchase of Government Stores, a considerable reduction will be effected in the Home charges, which constitute such a heavy drain on our finances. The purchase of Stores by the India Office for the Government of India is a scandal of long standing. The reader may recollect that so far back as 1870 the question was ventilated with some animation at the anti-Income-Tax meeting held by the Calcutta public in that year. In protesting against the extravagance of the Government of India and demanding the enforcement of a policy of rigid economy in all branches of the public service, Mr. Eldridge, who was then Vice-President of the Chamber of Commerce and also a member of the Committee of the Calcutta Port Fund, brought some scandalous facts to public notice. He informed his hearers to their great astonishment that the cost of laying down chains for the new screw moorings (which formed the chief item in the heavy debt recently incurred by the Port Fund) "had been 30 to 40 per cent. above what they could have been obtained for through other sources than the Secretary of State." Mr. Eldridge pointed out that not only was the price of Stores purchased by the India office high, but the freight paid was also very excessive. He instanced the case of the *Latona* by which vessel was shipped to Port Canning about 366 tons of Government Stores, including 158 tons of chain-cable for the Calcutta Port Fund, at 44 shillings per ton, or nearly double the current rate of the day by first-class ships to Calcutta direct. Again, other vessels received 59½ shillings per ton for carrying Government Stores, while the outward freight from London in the finest ships at the time referred to ranged from 20 to 30 shillings per ton. Eighteen years have elapsed since these incontestable facts were brought to notice of the public, but the scandal has not yet ceased, and the India Office contractors are flourishing. But the poor tax-payer suffers in more ways than one. In the first place, he has to pay inordinately high prices for the articles purchased in England. In the second place he has to bear the cost of a huge department of the India Office specially maintained for purchasing Stores. In the third place, he has to pay fanciful freights; and in the fourth place he bears the loss by exchange for remittances from India. It cannot but be a matter of the deepest regret that the present system of purchasing through the India Office the Stores required for the public service in this country, should be allowed to continue. India Office contracts have, indeed, gained a notoriety; and yet the scandal goes on unchecked. One Government succeeds another, one Minister succeeds another; but the abuses flourish all the same. Could anything be more scandalous than the perpetuation of these abuses?

The Government of India has repeatedly declared its policy to foster private enterprise and local manufactures; but practically its good intentions have hardly produced any substantial result. Seven years ago Lord Ripon and Sir Evelyn Baring took up in right earnest the whole question of the most economical method of procuring the Stores required for the public service in India. They, however, failed to solve the problem satisfactorily. In reply to a representation of the Trades Association on the subject, Sir C. Hope, the then Financial Secretary, wrote:—"As regards the supply of Stores produced or manufactured in Europe, I am directed to observe that a special department is maintained at the India Office for the express purpose of supplying the wants of the Government of India in this respect. That Department *should be able* to obtain European Stores of as good a quality and at as cheap a price as they can be obtained through local Agency in India, the employment of which involves the payment of Commission." The italics in the passage just quoted are ours. We readily admit that as the Store Department of the India Office is maintained at a considerable cost it ought to be able to purchase articles of European manufacture in England at cheap rates; but what are the practical results? We are afraid that the prices paid by the India Office are generally higher than the prevailing rates in this country though the latter include the charges of Commission to Indian Agents. Sir C. Hope, in his letter to the Trades Association, said:—"If, however, Local Governments or heads of Departments have any reason to believe that better or cheaper stores of European manufacture can be obtained through local agency than by indenting on the Secretary of State, they have been invited to report the facts of the particular case in detail for such action as the special circumstances may demand." But the Trades Association, in their representation to the Government of India which elicited the above reply, mentioned at least one instance in which cheaper local manufacture had been rejected in favour of the more expensive article produced in Europe. The Government of India promised to make an enquiry into the matter; but the result of that enquiry, if we remember rightly, has not been given to the public during these seven years.

The Government of Lord Ripon, however, expressed its earnest desire to give the utmost encouragement to every effort to substitute for stores obtained from Europe articles of *bonafide* local manufacture or of indigenous origin. Sir C. Hope, in his letter to the Trades Association, of which mention has been made above, observed: "The Government of India fully recognizes the importance of this subject, and is anxious to do all that, with due consideration for the interests of the tax-payers, can legitimately be done to encourage local manufactures by purchasing the stores which it requires in the local market. Government must, of course, buy in the cheapest market, but where articles of European or of Indian manufacture do not differ materially in price and quality, the Government would always be disposed to give the preference to the latter. There is one difficulty which arises in giving effect to the above-mentioned policy in respect of articles for which Government has a demand. On the one hand, local capitalists are unwilling to embark in any extensive manufacturing enterprise, unless a large and constant demand for the article which they propose to supply is secured to them. On the other hand, the Government is generally obliged to proceed

tentatively in such matters as it would be imprudent to rely *wholly* on the local market until experience has proved its adequacy to supply all the Government demands. The Government would, however, generally be prepared to meet this difficulty by entering into contracts for the supply of such portions of its demand and for such a length of time as would make it worth while to lay out a certain amount of capital, and enable capitalists to test by experience the practicability of their schemes. * * * The question is somewhat complicated; but the Government hopes that it may eventually be able by such means to reduce materially the amount of stores obtained from England." This hope, we regret to say, has not yet been fulfilled. We have no doubt that Lord Ripon and Sir Evelyn Baring were really anxious to foster private enterprise in the matter of the purchase of stores required for the public service; but they failed to resist the India Office influence and put things straight. If Lord Cross is sincere in his desire to deal fairly with the whole question of the most economical method of procuring stores for the Government of India, his lordship should begin by abolishing the Store Department of the India Office.

THE MAHAMMADANS OF BOMBAY.

THE Mahammadans of Bombay seem to be amongst the happiest of mortals. Their lines have fallen in pleasant places. The cup of their felicity runs over. They have no grievances to complain of. Unlike John Bull, who is said to be the greatest grumbler in the world, our Moslem friends of Bombay do not grumble at any thing. Like the gods of Epicurus, they have no wishes, because they have no wants. They have got every thing they wish for, to their heart's content. Happy the people who are in such a case! There is, however, one drop of bitterness in their cup of otherwise unalloyed happiness, and that is ignorance. Never was the common saying, that "Ignorance is bliss" better illustrated than in the case of the Mahammadans of the Duck Island. A Mahammadan meeting was recently held in Bombay to consider whether they should join the National Congress that is to be held at Allahabad next December, and send delegates to that assembly. The proceedings of that meeting were not only, as the reporter says, of "a lively character, but they must have afforded, to one gifted with a sense of the ludicrous, an infinite fund of merriment. The chief speaker at the meeting was one Mr. M. H. Hakim, said to be a barrister-at-law, who seems to have arrived at conclusions without evidence and without facts. He could not have read a single page of the Proceedings of the National Congress, for he entirely misconceives its object. He thought that the object of the Congress was to drive away the British from India and to become independent. It is impossible for us to conceive how a man possessing one grain of common sense, far less a barrister-at-law, could be guilty of such a misconception or misrepresentation. He dwelt much on the benefits conferred by the British on the people of India. No one denies this. In fact, but for these blessings the National Congress would have been an impossibility. It is because the Government has pursued a generous policy, it is because the Government has given us education and opened the eyes of our minds, that we have become acquainted with our wants and wish to tell Government what would make us comfortable and happy. The National Congress has not been set up in opposition to Government, it is intended to be an auxiliary to Government. It is the mouth-piece of newly awakened India. But it seems that our Mahammadan friends, whether in Bombay or elsewhere, have not yet been awakened. They are still sleeping the sleep of mental torpor and death. While the light of the sun of knowledge is streaming in bright and copious showers on the Hindu and the Parsi communities, the Mahammadan community, at least in the Bombay Presidency, seems to be enveloped in midnight gloom. Mr. Hakim confesses this to be a fact. He says categorically that the Mahammadans are too ignorant to join the National Congress. It would have been intelligible if he had stopped here, and given that as the only reason why Mahammadans keep aloof from the Congress. He said; "he was blest by God with some common sense and knowledge, but he could not understand what possible good the movement could do to the Mahammedans, nor could he understand of what avail it would be to his Parsi and Hindu brethren." This very sentiment shows clearly that Providence has not supplied Mr. Hakim with a superfluity of that article which he credits himself with possessing, namely, common sense. Common sense would have taught him that it is the duty of every community, like that of every man, to improve their condition, political, social and moral; and any community which has no wish for improvement, deserves to grovel in the dust. The aim of every rational man ought to be to advance, to go forward; and the person, who has no wish to make progress, scarcely deserves the name of man. So it is with communities. It is the law of every community to advance, and not to advance is to go back. The aim of the Congress is to help the nation in its forward movement. Our Mahammadan friends seem to have no desire to go forward. They have everything they want. They have already attained perfection. They are in Elysium. Let them enjoy their delusive repose. They will, however, be rudely shaken in their sleep, and when they awake they will find that the other nationalities of India have gone far ahead, and themselves left behind. The resolution which Mr. Hakim moved in Urdu, at the Bombay Meeting, was to the effect that the Mahammadan community should not join the National Congress for two reasons, namely, on account of the low state of education among them, and on account of the unsettled political state of Europe. The first reason we understand and appreciate. They are too ignorant to understand political matters. To expect such people to join the Congress would be the same thing as to expect the Bhils, the Santals, the Koles, the Dhangurs and other aboriginal tribes to join the Congress. This reason is quite intelligible and sufficient, though we cannot help commisserating the members of the community which is in such a case. Whatever fault Mr. Hakim has, he has at least one conspicuous virtue, namely, frankness. He and other speakers at the same meeting have told us frankly that the Mahammedans of Bombay will not join the Congress, because they are too ignorant to appreciate its objects. We wish our Mahammadan friends in Bengal and at Aligurh would learn this lesson of frankness from Mr. Hakim of Bombay. The second reason for Mahammadan abstinence from the Congress, namely, that arising from the present politically unsettled state of Europe, we do not quite understand. In the first place, the political situation of Europe is not so unsettled now as it was some months ago. There is now a better prospect of peace in Europe than there was ofrt a long time past. But supposing that the political state of Europe is in a troubled state, what has that to do with the Congress, and the Mahammadans joining it? Does Mr. Hakim expect that when the National Congress sits at Allahabad next December, the Russians will immediately capture Herat, march upon Cabul, defeat the Amir, and, descending into the plains of India through the Khyber Pass, expect to be joined by the powerful army of the Congressionists, 600 strong without arms, artillery or ammunition? If Mr. Hakim is not such a fool as to think such an event possible, then why talk of the unsettled state of Europe in connection with the National Congress? The fact is, it is a mere pretence. They have no wish to join the Congress, and they invent all sorts of reasons to justify their abstention. It would be interesting, however, to enquire why Mahammadans in many parts of the country are not friendly to the Congress. One reason undoubtedly is, that the Mahammadans, as was prominently brought forward at the Bombay meeting, are in general more ignorant than their Hindu fellow subjects. There is no political life amongst them. A second reason is, that they wish to get by flattery what the Hindus wish to obtain by constitutional agitation. By their present attitude towards the Congress they mean to say to Government—"See! we are not so disaffected and disloyal to Government as these Hindus, and especially these Babus of Bengal, who are the greatest agitators, and who are the real wire-pullers of this puppet show of a so-called National Congress. Unlike these Hindus, we Mahammadans are thoroughly loyal to the British Government—*Inshala*! may God preserve it for ever! We appreciate the blessings which we receive from your paternal hands, and we wish to show our gratitude for those blessings. These Babus are ungrateful. They have eaten your salt, and they sing not your praises. They curse the hand that blesses them. They are like the snake that, although fed with milk, bites the hand that feeds it. We are not like them. We are loyal and thankful. We pray for the perpetuity of your rule. May Allah preserve your rule for ever." This, we suspect, is the meaning of their present attitude. But they are mistaken. Government is not deceived with honeyed phrases coming out of not over-sincere mouths, Government will not be deluded by mere hollow professions. The genuine Englishman hates flattery and respects manliness. When the British nation sees the Bengali Babus and the Bombay Mahrattas coming forward in a manly and straight-forward manner, and petitioning for changes calculated to ameliorate the condition of the people of India, that nation, fully appreciating the blessings of liberty and civilization, will readily comply with their wishes and concede to their demands. And although our Mahammadan fellow-subjects will doubtless share in the blessings thus conferred, they will not have the satisfaction of reflecting that they have obtained those blessings by their exertions.

THE SERAMPORE MUNICIPALITY.

DR. LIDDERDALE, the Sanitary Commissioner for Bengal, inspected the Serampore Municipality on the 9th of January last. After a few preliminary remarks regarding the income and expenditure of the Municipality, the Doctor thus formulates in his inspection report his charges against the Municipal Commissioners:

> The insanitary conditions noticed on the last occasion still exist to the detriment of the health of the whole community. In fact, this town is one in which Municipal Government may be said to effect little or no good. * * *
> In no way has the place advanced since my last visit. The Commissioners hoard their money and do not even incur the necessary expenditure on public latrines, and seem to take no active interest in public concerns. No one seems to look after the conservancy or other establishments who neglect their work in the most barefaced manner. The town overgrown with jungle which the owners of land are not required to keep down. It is riddled with dobas and old tanks and the Commissioners permit the formations of new ones for brick and house-making. They also allow drains to be built over for private conveniences. The whole management of the town as a specimen of Local Self-Government is a complete failure. The Commissioners effect no good to the people. They tax them and give no adequate return. They support a large establishment which seems to study how to neglect work and succeed in finding out the way. Altogether the state of Serampore is highly discreditable to all concerned. What is wanted is life in the administration of the Municipality. The presence of cholera here all the year round, and the fearful loss of life therefrom should have awakened the Commissioners to a full sense of their duty and responsibility towards their constituents. But even these considerations seem to have failed to rouse them to a proper sense of their duties. As a body administering public funds it is undoubtedly their imperative duty to work in a manner which is calculated to bring about the greatest good to the greatest number.

From this summing up our readers may easily imagine what the opinion of the Sanitary Commissioner is regarding the present municipal administration of Serampore. He severely condemns every branch of the administration, and "trusts that the Commissioners will now accord serious consideration to the suggestions, offered under the several branches of sanitation in the present as in the previous report, and take adequate steps to materially improve the sanitary condition of the town committed to their care. *If they do not I shall consider it my duty to refer the matter to Government.*" The italics are our own. The report was forwarded by the Sub-Divisional officer of Serampore to the Chairman of the Municipality, on the 10th of July last, with a request that an early report may be submitted regarding the action on the Sanitary Commissioner's suggestions by the Municipal Commissioners.

The Chairman, Dr. Trailokya Nath Mitra, who is a distinguished pleader of the Calcutta High Court, has submitted an elaborate Report giving a complete refutation to the strictures of the Sanitary Commissioner. The report deals largely

with facts and figures, and shows by means of them that the Sanitary Commissioner is entirely wrong in his statements. It is impossible to deny after reading the report that the Municipal Commissioners of Serampore have done their duty to the best of their powers, and the public will, we are sure, feel satisfied that the Serampore Municipality has not been a failure. The Municipality was created in 1865, and it came under the present regime in 1885. The Municipality was thus under its old government for 20 years, and has been under its present administration for about three years and a half. To arrive at a correct estimate of the present administrative efficiency, it is necessary to compare the sanitary and conservancy arrangements of the old Municipality with those of the new. A glance at the statement given in the Report will show that the Commissioners have made many substantial improvements in the town. They have maintained the old works in an efficient condition, and have made numerous new works and improvements. We cannot imagine what more can be expected of them. The Report modestly says: "The Municipal Commissioners do not pride themselves on the perfection of their administration; they only claim credit for honestly endeavouring to perform their duties. They are fully aware that there is room for considerable improvement in the town (and in what town in Bengal there is not); but what they venture to think is that, with the small revenue at their disposal, and with so many multifarious wants of a straggling township, it would have been perhaps difficult to do more."

The Sanitary Commissioner is very angry with the Municipal Commissioners for not introducing filtered water-supply into the town. The Report says that the Commissioners "are fully alive to the importance of filtered water-supply to the town." But the question is one of ways and means. Where is the large capital necessary for the work to come from? When the Municipal Commissioners failed to raise the paltry sum of Rs. 15,000 or Rs. 20,000 by a loan under the most favorable terms, it is verging on insanity to think of engaging in a water-supply scheme with borrowed capital. The Municipal Commissioners are anxious to avoid the spectacle of a bankrupt Municipality caused by starting a water-supply scheme, the very preliminary works of which they will not be able to complete. It is notorious that the Municipal Commissioners of Hughly had to abandon the scheme of filtered water-supply for want of funds, although they were subsidized by a liberal grant from a munificent citizen. We are curious to know what answer the Sanitary Commissioner can give to such a matter of fact statement.

The most serious charge made against the Municipality is that there is cholera in Serampore all the year round, and that the rate of mortality is heavy. The Report under notice thus refutes the charge:

It is not correct as he says that cholera is present here all the year round. It is true that cases of cholera are occasionally met with in different wards. But what are the Municipal Commissioners to do? Is there any preventive for this? Has the medical profession been able to prescribe any remedy for it? The Sanitary Commissioner reads to the Commissioners the Benthamite doctrine, but does not give the Commissioners any practical help to carry it out beyond telling them in vague generals "to materially improve the sanitary condition of the town committed to their care."

As to cholera, I think it is now generally admitted, whatever the profession may say to the contrary, that there is no preventive for it. It is also notorious that occasionally by a sort of visitation cholera breaks out in different cities and parts of India. The Metropolis of British India and its suburbs are notorious for their susceptibility to these outbreaks, in spite of their ample resources and the means and appliances at their disposal and the great wealth of their inhabitants. The Municipal Commissioners are curious to know in what unmeasured language the Sanitary Commissioner must have condemned the whole body of the Metropolitan and the Suburban Commissioners for the presence of cholera in their midst all the year round.

The Sanitary Commissioner has quoted certain figures to show that the mortality rate in this town from cholera is heavy. Those figures, however, are deceptive. as the following para from the Government Resolution, dated the 24th June 1879, on the Sanitary Commissioner's report referring to the mortality rate of Serampore, will make it abundantly clear:—

"The mills in Serampore have attracted about 20,000 workmen, and Dr. Coates "recommends that attention be paid to the improvement of the sanitation of their huts." The collection of this large number of laborers, however, suggested another and more hopeful solution of the heavy mortality in Serampore, *viz* that the population has "materially increased, and that the recorded deaths represent a mortality among over "40,000 persons, instead of the 24,440 shown at the last Census. It may well be that in "many of the smaller towns the population has increased so much since the last Census "that the retention of these figures as the basis of the mortality rate must be deceptive."

The Municipal Commissioners in their own way attempt in cases of outbreaks of cholera in their town to prevent its spread and intensity by such measures as they are advised, as their proceedings at the time of the last outbreak will show.

It is difficult to say any thing more on the subject. The duty of the Sanitary Commissioner clearly is not to read a lecture on the Utilitarian Theory of Bentham and Mill, but to point out the means by which the evils complained of can be remedied. Instead of confining himself within his proper sphere and *advising* the Commissioners as to what they ought to do within their limited resources he launches into tirades against Local Self-Government and attempts to hold up the Serampore Municipality to ridicule as one of the worst specimens of Local Self-Government. We cannot too severely censure such wanton remarks from the Sanitary Commissioner of Bengal.

The Report gives us an insight as to how the inspection was conducted. "His inspection of the town," we read, "did not last longer than a few hours of a day." We agree with the Commissioners that to successfully inspect a town like Serampore, covering an area of six square miles, having 50 miles of road-way and 160 miles of drainage, besides numerous sanitary and other works maintained by the Municipality, would certainly require much longer time than the Sanitary Commissioner did devote to the work. It will be seen then that the opinion of the Sanitary Commissioner regarding "the highly discreditable management of the Municipal Commissioners was based upon the inspection of Serampore conducted probably in the course of a drive through the town. Our readers can easily judge what value should be attached to opinion formed under such conditions.

The Municipal Commissioners of Serampore have fully defended themselves against the charges made against them, and the public will, we feel sure, exonerate them from all blame. The Report fitly concludes with the following remarks, the covert irony of which will be enjoyed by those who read between the lines. "The Municipal Commissioners fully appreciate the value of the Sanitary Commissioner's recommendations, but they apprehend that neither the legal powers nor the financial recources at their disposal are such as to enable them to carry out many of his suggestions. Projects of material improvement nesessarily involve some consideration of ways and means, and with the slender means at their disposal the Municipal Commissioners must be compelled to abandon all ambitious schemes of improvement, and must be content with the humbler task of doing all that their resources will allow to improve the existing conditions and remove the more grave wants of the town."

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES

SIR STUART BAYLEY left the Presidency on Wednesday on his Dacca tour. His Honor goes to Darjeeling at the close of the tour.

THE next Criminal Sessions of the High Court will open on the 22nd instant, and will be presided over by the Hon. Justice Trevelyan.

THE High Court closes for the Doorga Poojah holidays on the 10th September and re-opens on the 17th of November. Justices Macpherson and Trevelyan will be the vacation Judges.

THERE is said to be a likelihood of the decision of the Government of India on the Report of the Public Service Commission being published by the end of this month.

THE Maharajah of Cooch Behar, who is at present at Simla, has invited H. E. the Viceroy to visit him at Cooch Behar in the course of His Excellency's projected tour in Northern Bengal.

IT is some relief to learn that Sir Lepel Griffin's official appointment to the Hydrabad Residency has not yet been made. The adverse criticism that has been evoked throughout India by the announcement, may yet have some influence on Lord Dufferin and the Secretary of State, and the calamity, let us hope, will yet be averted.

COUNT VON MOLTKE has resigned his post as Chief of the Staff. Count de Waldersee succeeds him.

THE Master of the Mint, at Calcutta, and the Assay Master have been appointed a Committee to report upon the questions connected with standard weights and balances of precision in the Indian mints. The Mint Master and Assay Master of Bombay will furnish all the assistance in their power.

IT is announced that the Bengal Government is strongly in favour of a Chittagong expedition next cold weather and has told the India Government so. The restless spirit of the border tribes bodes, it is said, raids on British territories and steps, it is urged should be taken to prevent the evil.

REUTER telegraphs that Mr. Parnell proceeds against the *Times* for libel in the Scotch Courts. Mr. Parnell's mistrust in an English Jury is probably the reason of his resorting to Edinburgh for relief. The Parliamentary Commission also which has been lately appointed will give him ample opportunities of clearing up his character. Mr. Parnell claims fifty thousand pounds for damages. The trial takes place in October. Mr. Thomas O'Connor, M. P., and Mr. John Redmond, M. P., will bring similar actions against the *Times* in the Court of Queen's Bench.

THE Lieutenant-Governor has exempted Barristers-at-Law practising in the mufassil from liability to serve as jurors or assessors. Why should not pleaders also enjoy the same immunity? The scarcity of capable jurors is no doubt a good reason for retaining them, but the inconvenience is sometimes great. And occasions there are when unsophisticated jurors would do better than professional lawyers.

A NATIVE counterpart of the Crawford case has appeared in the Madras Presidency. It is a case against Kunjen Menon, Sub-Judge of Tellicherry, for bribery. The Advocate-General appeared for Government, and Mr. Willie Grant for the accused. The second prisoner, a Moplah, is charged with abetment. Both pleaded not guilty. After a protracted trial the Assessors trying the case were of opinion that the charge against both prisoners had not been proved, and the Judge reserved judgment.

A RESOLUTION of the Finance Department notifies that the amount of the sales of Stock Notes is still very small, and that the public continue to look upon the system with disfavour. It may be said that the public have never adopted these securities at all as a regular form of investment, and complaints have occasionally reached Government, which on enquiry are shown to be well founded, of the hardship resulting from the depreciation of notes, and from the difficulty of realising them at any price. Government having now re-examined the subject, has with regret been forced to the conclusion that the experiment ought now to be abandoned; it has accordingly been decided to discontinue the further sale of Stock Notes and to withdraw as far as possible those in circulation, amounting approximately to Rs. 16,20,000, by substituting for them Government Promissory Notes of the 4 per cent. Loan of 1842-43. The Promissory Notes are to be issued at a premium of 8 annas per cent.

OUR friends of the Mahomedan Literary Society have singular ideas regarding discipline and moral training in our public schools. The rod and the Koran, according to them, will cure the evils we all deplore. Let our erring youths taste of the rod, and read a few pages of the Koran without understanding what is written in them and they cannot fail to be patterns of social virtues. The idea of a moral text-book is preposterous. There is danger from such a look to *true religion*, and they will have none of it

Reverence to authority is a natural outcome of a free use of the rod and learning the Koran by rote. We commend these opinions to those reformers who are anxious to improve the morals of our youths.

THE *Englishman* has been hurling his thunders on the devoted heads of the supporters of the Local Self-Government. The Dacca and the Serampore Municipalities have fared the worst. They have been specially selected to show the utter worthlessness of the principles of Self-Government. Dacca was at one time a model city especially favored by a Princely House. Under the present Municipal adminstration its glory has departed, and it can no longer claim to be the Queen of East Bengal. Down with the Municipal Commissioners who within the short space of three years have so ruthlessly destroyed her beauty and her fame. The writer scorns to give us an idea of the measure of iniquity of the offending Commissioners. Has the sanitation of the place in any way suffered by the administration of these monsters of iniquity? Have conservancy arrangements been neglected, and are roads and streets not properly looked after? We are left in the dark with regard to this information.

ON Thursday last Babu Srinath Chunder, attorney-at-law, on behalf of the rate-payers of Burrabazar, Burtola and other places, submitted to the Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality a Memorial, pointing out that an alternative route from the Hughly Bridge to Sealdah could be less expensively opened out than the one proposed by the Municipality. The initial outlay for the construction of the proposed Central Road will be no less than 50 lakhs, the estimated cost of the premises to be acquired by Government being no less than Rs. 34,50,000. According to the memorialists the compensation to be awarded for acquiring premises for the construction of the Road suggested by them would be Rs. 11,53,245 only. If the alternative route be adopted, the saving will be not less than Rs. 22,96,755. The advantages of the alternative route will be about the same as those to be derived by the proposed Central Road. The Chairman has promised to lay the Memorial before the Committee appointed to consider the Central Road Scheme. The Memorial is signed by about 500 rate-payers, including such influential names as those of Maharaja Sir Narendra Krishna, Raja Durga Charan Law, Raja Rajendralala Mitra, Raja Sourindra Mohun Tagore, Babu Jadulal Mullick, Kumar Debendro Mullick, Roy Budree Dass, Babu Damodar Das, Babu Bholanath Mullick and others. Now that the India Government has refused to hand over the Howrah Bridge Surplus for the construction of the Central Road the project submitted by the Memorialists deserves careful consideration.

MR. W. S. CAINE, M. P. has done well in bringing out in the form of a pamphlet a report of the debate in the House of Commons upon the excise revenue of India. Our readers are no doubt aware that he took the foremost part in that debate and that he spared no pains in collecting and placing before the House facts and figures which conclusively show that drunkenness has increased in India with the increase of excise revenue. The charge that he made against the Government of India is the same as that made by the Bishop of London, as President of the British and Colonial Temperance Congress in 1886. The reply submitted by the Government to the House of Commons deals with the whole question very carefully; but we are bound to say that it is in the nature of a special pleader and that it will not bear the test of a searching examination and thorough sifting of facts made in this country. We are glad to learn that Mr. Caine intends coming out to India in November next with the object of examining for himself the condition and the opinions of the people with reference to this and other matters. We earnestly trust that our public bodies will give him all necessary help in arriving at the truth and that the growing misery of the people in consequence of the spread of drunkenness will be one of the questions discussed at the Allahabad Congress.

THE reasons of the sudden abandonment of the criminal proceedings against Mr. Crawford have not yet been explained. The Bombay Government has informed the Government of India regarding the withdrawal of the charges from Mr. Vidal's court and his trial by a commission, and thinks that the appointment of Commissioners by the Bombay Government would be considered biassed. It, therefore, wishes the Government of India to name the Commissioners. When a Commission is to take the place of the regular Court it is much better certainly that it should not be biassed by local influence. Mr. Crawford himself is said to be dissatisfied with the proceedings and would prefer an open enquiry. With Lord Reay at the head of Government everything must be supposed to be above board, and we would fain believe that there must be grave reasons for this change of procedure. If there was really a desire to screen Mr. Crawford's supposed misdoings, Government would not have studiously raked them while the public absolutely knew nothing about them. It is said that Bengal Civilians will compose the Commission; but it may be strengthened in other ways. An inexplicable feature of the case is that while Mr. Crawford is to be tried by a Commission his friend Hanumunt Rao's trial at the Criminal Court is proceeding. The principal and assistant should have sailed in the same boat, and then not a word would have been said against the proceedings of the Government.

WE feel it our duty to draw the attention of Government to the observations that fell from the Jury at the Coroner's inquest of a lamentable case of suicide by hydrocyanic acid the other day. The Jury were of opinion that the practice of selling poison in the bazar was a very dangerous one, and there should be a check put on the sale of poisonous drugs, which are now sold freely and extensively in the market. The acid which was in the bottle, also had a mixture of prussic acid, a rank poison. The Coroner said that he had invariably put forward the presentment of the Jury in this respect, but no steps were taken to remedy the evil. If, however, the Jury wished to submit a similar presentment he would be glad to put it in. The Jury observed that as no notice had been taken of the submission of previous presentments, it was hardly worth their while to make a similar observation. It is a grave charge, indeed, against the executive authorities that these warnings should be reiterated without their being in the least heeded. We hope effective steps will soon be taken for carrying out the recommendation made by the Coroner's jury on this and on other occasions.

ANY movement that tends to bridge over the gulf between Hindus and Mahammadans, is welcome to us and we are glad that Sir Syed Ahmed is working at it. He is opposed to the Congress and is working hard to counteract the good work done by it, and we are not sorry for it for the movement gains by it. Sir Syed Ahmed's party thinks it desirable that an Association should be formed of those Hindus and Mahammadans who are opposed to the Congress which will be called *The Indian Patriotic Association*. The business of this Association will be to "inform the people of England of the real condition of India by printing pamphlets from time to time. Several thousand copies of each pamphlet will be sent to London to be distributed among members of Parliament, editors of newspapers &c., and will be circulated by means of an agency, arrangements for which have been already made. If, besides Hindoos and Mahammadans, any Englishmen wish to join the Association, we shall be extremely grateful to them for their assistance. But no Government servant, whether Hindoo, Mahammadan or English, can be accepted as a member of the Association." The object is certainly good, and we wish the new Association success so far. But let there be no misrepresentation in the heat of partizanship. England cannot be too much informed about matters Indian, and we are thankful to our Mahammadan friends for aiding in the work that the Congress thinks very important.

WE have received a copy of Babu D. N. Basu's "Junior English Grammar." We consider it to be a good and useful book, well calculated to instil the main principles of the subject into the minds of young beginners.

THE Students' Indian Law Code just published by Messrs. S. K. Lahiri and Co., contains several of the most important Regulations and enactments which judicial officers and the legal profession have daily to deal with. Scores of amending enactments have made material alterations in these laws. The texts given in the Code before us contain all the corrections up to date. This is a great convenience to the public, no other corrected edition of such important enactments as the Code of Civil Procedure or the Code of Criminal Procedure having yet been published. Considering the number of enactments contained in the work we have no doubt it will be welcomed by the public as a very useful publication and the small price at which it has been offered for sale will be an additional recommendation for its universal acceptance.

GLOOMY news comes from Rome. According to an official report received from Massowah three hundred and fifty auxiliary troops with all the Italian officers have been destroyed by Abyssinians while attacking Saganaciti. The disaster is said to have been due to the treachery of the native allies joining the enemy during the fighting. It is difficult to determine the truth about the so-called treachery. But the report proves that without native allies the Italian troops are virtually powerless in the struggle. In the meanwhile a circular has been issued by the Porte declaring the Italian occupation of Massowah to be a violation of existing treaties.

WE understand that Mr. Harrington Tucker, District Superintendent of Police, is the officer appointed by the Bengal Government, to enquire into the alleged cases of kidnapping unsuspecting persons by coolie recruiters. While thanking His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor for the institution of this enquiry we cannot help remarking that it would have been more satisfactory, if a native officer of tried ability had been selected for this task. We have no personal objections against Mr. Tucker; but we believe that a native officer would have been more suitable for the work. It should be borne in mind that the alleged cases of kidnapping occur not in the market place of a large town or city, but in obscure hamlets. The presence of a European in such places is sure to be observed by the recruiters and their agents. His movements would be closely watched and duly reported to all concerned. The officer's appearence and disappearence would thus be known beforehand wherever he might go; and it goes without saying, that the agents would take good care to prevent any thing damaging to their nefarious trade from reaching his ears. It is absurd to expect that he would be able to maintain his *incognito* and to conceal the character of his mission. A native officer of ability and experience would have been, from the circumstances of the case, most fitted for successfully conducting an enquiry of this nature. It cannot be said, that there is any difficulty in securing a reliable native officer. There are good and true men in the department. We can name more than one native gentleman who possesses the requisite qualifications. There are two native District Superintendents, either of whom might have been confidently entrusted with the task. One of them spent several years in Assam, and has thus a thorough knowledge of that part of the country. If the object of the Government had been to throw dust into the eyes of the public, and to give them the shadow when they cried for the substance, we are free to admit that that object could not have been better promoted than by the appointment of a European officer to conduct an enquiry for which he is clearly disqualified. We cannot believe that Sir Steuart Bayley can possibly harbour such a design; but it is our duty to say that the appointment is looked upon with suspicion and is calculated to make men sceptical of the probable good that might result from the enquiry.

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Government Notifications.

Calcutta Gazette,—*August* 12, 1888.

GENERAL.—Baboo Juggut Chunder Shome, Deputy Collector, is appointed to perform the functions of a Collector in the district of Dinagepore.

Mr. T. J. Mendes, Deputy Collector, is vested with the powers of Collector under section 4 of the Public Demands Recovery Act in the district of Balasore.

Mr. R. M. Towers, C. S., reported his departure from India on furlough, on the 24th July, 1888.

Mr J Posford, Officiating Judge, Backergunge, is appointed to act as Judge of Tipperah.

Mr D Camerion. Officiating Judge, Tipperah, is appointed to act temporarily as Judge of Backergunge.

Kumar Girindra Narain Deb is posted to Pooree as Officiating Joint-Magistrate.

The Lieutenant-Governor accepts the resignation tendered by Dr R D O'Brien of his appointment as Honorary Surgeon of the "A" Company of the Northern Bengal Volunteer Rifle Corps.

Dr E L Faulkner is appointed to be Honorary Surgeon of the "A" Company of the Northern Bengal Volunteer Rifle Corps.

Mr F F Handley, Officiating Judge, Pubna, is appointed to act as Judge of Nuddea.

Mr F F Pargiter, Joint-Magistrate, is appointed to act as Judge of Pubna.

Mr H Cox, Officiating Joint-Magistrate, Raneegunge, is appointed to act as Judge of Beerbhoom.

Mr H C Streatfield, Assistant Magistrate, Bhagulpore, is appointed temporarily to have charge of the Raneegunge sub-division.

The appointment of Kumar Ramendra Krishna to have charge of the Satkhira sub-division is cancelled.

Baboo Hara Chandra Ghose, Temporary Sub-Deputy Collector, Palamow, Lohardugga, is allowed leave for one month.

Baboo Saroda Prasad Sircar, Deputy Magistrate, Manickgung, is vested with the powers of a Collector under Act X of 1870 in that district.

Mr G M Goodricke, Deputy Collector of Calcutta, reported his departure frem India, on furlough, on the 1st instant.

Baboo Baroda Churn Mittra, Assistant Magistrate, Mymensingh, on leave, was in charge of the Kishoregunge sub-division of that district from the afternoon of the 26th May to the forenoon of the 4th July, 1888.

Baboo Shama Churn Dutt, Temporary Sub-Deputy Collector, is posted to the Contai Sub-division, in the district of Midnapore.

Mr N K Bose, Officiating Magistrate, Bogra, acted as Magistrate and Collector of Backergunge, from the afternoon of the. 5th to the forenoon of the 9th July, 1888.

Mr J Clark, Assistant Magistrate, Behar, Patna, is vested with the powers of a Collector under Act X of 1870 in the district of Patna.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.—Baboo Bungshedhur Roy, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Moorshedabad, is vested with the powers to try summarily the offences mentioned in the section 260 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and with powers under section 110 of that Code.

Moulvie Sobhan Ali Khan, Temporary Sub-Deputy Collector, Nowada, Gya, is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the third class.

Mr C G H Allen, Officiating Joint-Magistrate, Chittagong, is vested with the power to try summarily the offences mentioned in section 260 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and also with powers under section 110, 113, and 524 of that Code.

The Lieutenant-Governor accepts the resignation tendered by Baboos Haran Chandra Moitra and Satya Shikhar Mookerjee, of their appointments of Honorary Magistrates of the Lalbagh Bench, in the district of Moorshedabad.

The Lieutenant-Governor empowers Baboo Akhoy Coomar Chowdry, Sub-Deputy Collector, Deoghur, to take down evidence in criminal cases in the English language.

The undermentioned gentlemen are appointed to be Honorary Magistrates for the Bench at Lalbagh, in the district of Moorshedabad, and are vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the third class:—

Roy Bissen Chand Dudhuria Bahadur, Syed Faizuddin Ali.

Baboo Bepin Behary Sen, Munsif of Balurghat, is appointed to act as a Munsif in the district of Burdwan, to be ordinarily stationed at Culna.

Baboo Ashutos Sircar, Officiating Munsif of Balurghat in the district of Dinagepore, will continue in his present appointment.

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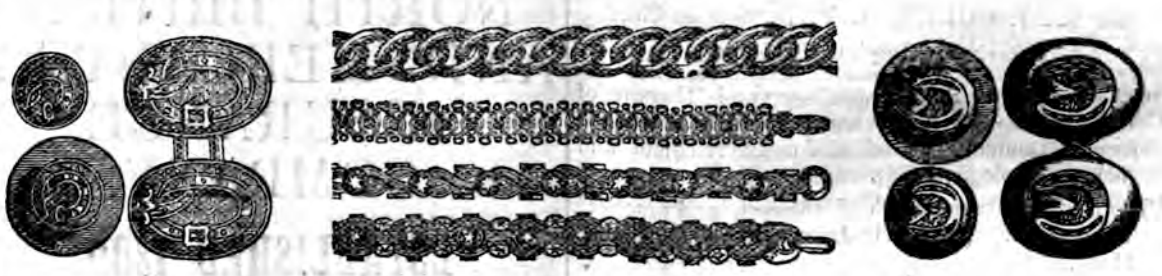

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